Drilling along the eastern cost of Bay of Bengal

1499. SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether any offshore exploratory drilling along the eastern coast in the Bay of Bengal under the Seventh Plan has been taken up; and

(b) if so, how many wells have so far been drilled and with what result?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 15; Oil/Gas was discovered in only 2 wells in Krishna Godavari Offshore basin.

Re-organisation of L.P.G. marketing division

1500. SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Oil Corporation is likely to re-organise its LPG Marketing set-up;

(b) whether this exercise would only add expenses to the marketing of LPG causing further strain on the consumers; and

(c) what are the reasons for the reorganisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) to (c) The Indian Oil Corporation has reorganised its LPG department for efficient management of its fast expanding LPG marketing operations and with a view to improving the quality of service to its LPG consumers. The additional expenditure on the reorganisation is estimated to be more than made up through the anticipated savings.

Upgrading technology for the manufacture of bicycles

1501. SHRI YALLA SESI BHUSHANA RAO: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to upgrade the technology for the manufacture of bicycles by importing know how for bicycles and to make the industry more competitive in the international market; and

(b) whether Foreign collaboration with reputed technology suppliers for bicycles and bicycle components alone would help the industry in its efforts to improve the quality?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) The Government have announced its decision to remove the bicycle industry from the Negative List of Illustrative Industries for foreign collaboration. This is expected to assist the industry in upgrading the level of technology in the manuacture of bicycles.

(b) Along with the decision to permit foreign collaboration for manufacture of bicycles and bicycle components, Government have announced a package of measure for assisting in the export of bicycles which include the placement of list of specialised capital goods for production of bicyles in the OGL, permission for import of proto types of improved models of bicycles to potential exporters, making available raw materials of appropriate quality on time to small scale manufacturers so as to enable them to produce quality bicycles components which will promote exports. Government hope that this package of measures would help the industry in stepping up their export performance.

1502. [*Transferred to the 1st December*, 1987]